REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-17 stand rejected. Claims 1-10 and 12-16 have been amended. Claims 1, 7-10 and 12-16 have been amended for clarity. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Reply to the Rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 15 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that "Claim 15 recites the limitation 'said solution' in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim."

Claim 15 has been amended as noted by the Examiner. It is believed that this amendment overcomes the indefiniteness rejection of claim 15. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Reply to the Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Duccini -

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. 812 905 to Duccini *et al.* ("Duccini"). Specifically, the Examiner states –

> Duccini et al, EP 812,905, discloses a dishwashing detergent tablet comprising 0.3-5% bye weight of a hydrophilic/hydrophobic polymer, 0-20% by weight of a phosphate builder, and adjunct ingredients (see abstract and page 2, lines 31-56). Specifically, note Example 1, which discloses a dishwashing tablet comprising 35% by weight of sodium citrate dihydrate, 8% by weight of carbonate, 10% by weight of perborate, 3% by weight of TAED, 4.5% by weight of polyacrylic acid, 1% by weight of a nonionic surfactant, 38-38.5% by weight of bicarbonate, and 0.5% by weight a tableting aid (see page 3, lines 1-21). Furthermore, note that a suitable tableting aid includes a copolymer of styrene, 2-hydroxyethylacrylate, and methacrylic acid (see page 3, Table 1), and that the dishwashing table is used in a process to wash dishes and silverware (see page 4, line 19-page 5, line 48). Therefore, instant claims 1-10 and 12-17 are anticipated by Duccini et al, EP 812,905.

For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-17 as being anticipated by Duccini.

Duccini discloses detergent tablets and bars containing high levels of non-phosphate

ingredients (p. 2, lines 3-4). The detergent tablet has at least 50 weight % of a non-phosphate builder and from 0 to 20 weight % of a phosphate builder (p. 2, lines 37-38). Incorporated into the tablet as a binder (tableting aid) is from 0.3 weight % to 5 weight % of a neutralized polymer formed from hydrophilic or hydrophobic monomers (p. 2, lines 38-39). The monomers are selected from (meth)acrylic acid, maleic anhydride, hydroxyalkyl(meth)acrylic acids, alkyl (meth)acrylates, alkylhydroxy (meth)acrylates, alkyl(meth)acrylic acids, or styrene (p. 2, lines 40-43).

In contrast to Duccini, the polymer of the present invention prevents the formation of a gel, thereby increasing the solubility rates of the single dose packets. Further, Duccini does not teach or suggest a method for treating aluminum and a rinse aid composition as is claimed in claims 12-17.

For at least these reasons, Duccini does not anticipate the presently claimed invention. Withdrawal, therefore, of the rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-17 as being anticipated by Duccini is respectfully requested.

Bory -

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-11, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,747,442 to Bory *et al.* ("Bory"). Specifically, the Examiner states –

> Bory et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,747,442, discloses a laundry pretreater composition in stick form comprising 0.1-10% by weight of a hydrophobically modified polar polymer which has a hydrophilic backbone, 30-80% by weight of a nonionic surfactant, 5-20% by weight of an anionic soap, and enzyme stabilizing system (see abstract and col. 1, line 65-col. 2, line 9). It is further taught by Bory et al that the backbone includes a single monomer, such as acrylic acid, and that the hydrophobic tail includes a second monomer, such as lauryl methacrylate or styrene (see col. e, line 26-col. 3, line 36). Specifically, note Examples 1 and 3, Therefore, instant claims 1-2, 4-11 and 16-17 are anticipated by Bory et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,747,442.

For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-11, 16 and 17 as being anticipated by Bory.

Bory teaches a stick pretreater composition for stain removal. The compositions contain 30 to 80 weight % of a nonionic surfactant, 1 to about 20 weight % of an anionic soap, and 0.1 to 10 weight % of a hydrophobically modified polar polymer (Abstract). The polymer has a

hydrophilic monomeric backbone and a hydrophobic monomeric tail portion attached to the backbone (col. 2, lines 1-4 and 26–30). Monomer units making up the hydrophilic backbone include unsaturated acids such as acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and maleic acid, cyclic units such as maleic anhydride, and saturated polyalcohols (col. 3, lines 12-24). The polymer is present in the stick pretreater in an amount of 0.01 to 10% by weight of the composition (col. 4, lines 24-26).

In contrast to Bory, the present inventions as amended are directed towards a detergent formulation in single dose portions, a non-aqueous formulation, a method for treating aluminum and a rinse aid composition, not a stick pretreater. Bory does not teach or suggest a detergent formulation in single dose portions, a method for treating aluminum and a rinse aid composition. Accordingly, Bory cannot be said to anticipate the presently claimed invention. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-11, 16 and 17 as being anticipated by Bory is respectfully requested.

Kimpton -

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,650,473 to Kimpton *et al.* ("Kimpton"). Specifically, the Examiner states –

> Kimpton et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,650,473, discloses a fabric or hard surface cleaning composition comprising a copolymer of acrylic acid and styrene (see col. 2, line 18-col. 3, line 25), and adjunct ingredients, such as surfactants (see col. 4, lines 62-65). Specifically, note Examples 4-8, which disclose powder detergents comprising a copolymer of acrylic acid and styrene, builders, nonionic surfactants, and adjunct ingredients, for washing dishes, fabrics and aluminum surfaces. Therefore, instant claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-17 are anticipated by Kimpton et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,650,473.

For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-17 as being anticipated by Kimpton.

Referring to Kimpton therein is disclosed a solution polymerization method for preparing a polymer. The monomers used in forming the polymer included styrene and/or substituted styrene monomer and a carboxylated monomer. The polymerization involves polymerizing the styrene monomer and the carboxylated monomer in a water-miscible solvent to form a polymer solution having acid moieties, neutralizing at least part of those acid moieties, and then removing the water miscible solvent (col. 1, lines 49-62). The amount of acid moieties required to be

moved depends upon the styrene content of the monomer mix (col. 2, lines 18-38). The styrene or substituted styrene comprises about 40 to 90% by weight of the total monomer used to prepare the polymer (col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 2). The carboxylated monomer can be acrylic acid, substituted acrylic acid, crotonic acid or itaconic acid, and is present in an amount of about 10 to 60% by weight (col. 3, lines 8-13).

The polymers of Kimpton are useful in cleaning compositions such as detergents (col. 4, lines 18-61). These cleaning compositions include non-ionic surfactants (col. 4, line 62 - col. 5, line 31). The polymer is present in cleaning compositions in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight (col. 5, lines 40-42). The polymers of Kimpton are also useful as corrosion inhibitors, particularly on aluminum (Example 4).

In contrast to Kimpton, the present application does not require the use of a water miscible solvent in forming its hydrophobically modified polymer. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 4-10 and 12-17 as being anticipated by Kimpton is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the above amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's rejections of the claims. Withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims is believed to be in order, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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NATIONAL STARCH AND CHEMICAL COMPANY
Post Office Box 6500
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807-0500
Phone 908.683.5433
Fax 908.707.3706

David P. LeCroy
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 37,869